

THE STEEPLE

Williston Federated Church

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation literature is available on the table in front of the Mission Bulletin Board. Please take, read and pass on these brochures. Become informed about what our denominations (UCC and UMC) are doing to help us become a more inclusive church. There are copies of **The Kindred Connection** and **KATALYST** published by the United Methodist Reconciling Ministries, and information from the United Church of Christ **Coalition for LGBT Concerns**.

Our Easter plate offering, April 8, over \$1,600 will go toward helping needy children attend summer programs. Thanks to all who contributed. Half of it will support Camp Agape, a Christian camp for children of incarcerated parents, held at the Covenant Hills Christian Camp in Cabot, VT. The other half will provide scholarships to Williston children to attend local camps and summer recreation programs.

The annual **COTS WALK**, Sunday, May 6, will take place in Burlington. Registration at 1:30 PM -- Walk begins at 2:00 PM-- BATTERY PARK – Rain or Shine – Contact our youth coordinator, Laurie Chipman, if you wish to support the Committee On Temporary Shelter’s services to homeless individuals and families.

Special offering for **Blankets and Tools**, Sunday, May 13, Mothers Day - promoted by Church World Service. \$5 can buy a warm blanket which provides warmth, shelter, privacy, for a refugee family. \$8 can buy simple tools for a family to earn a living, such as fishing nets, hand tools, baskets and bowls. Gift cards are available in the church gallery.

DISMAS HOUSE MEALS — The third Tuesday of each month (May 15, June 19, July 17) our church has committed to sharing a meal with the residents of this halfway house in Burlington for ex-prisoners. We are very much in need of volunteers to prepare parts of the meal, deliver the food and stay to eat with the residents. The meal starts at 6 PM and is over before 7 PM.. If you have never attended, we can pair you up with someone who has.

Habitat for Humanity Work Days, join with Charlie and Ruth Magill on Weds. June 6, June 20, July 25, and Aug. 8, to help build in Burlington. Call the Magills at 879-6238 for details.

Our church has received many thank you notes over the past few months from organizations we have supported with our special offerings. Look for a complete list of “Giving to Others” in the church’s Annual Report in June. A sample of the comments we have received: “Your support has been truly phenomenal to the children and families of Williston.” Kathy Shea, Williston School District RN. “Your gift has allowed us to match an anonymous donor’s challenge grant . . . later this year I will let your Church know of the positive outcomes we are anticipating.” Gail Rosenberg, Howard Center for Human Services



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Address:

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Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30

Phone: 878-5792

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Sunday Worship

Service:

9:30 AM

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Jonathan New

**Director of Children's
and Youth Ministries:**

Laurie Chipman

Church Secretary:

Brenda Racht

**Organist and Junior
Choir Accompanist:**

Carolyn Pillsbury

Music Director:

Martin Hain

Nursery Caregiver:

Michelle Davis

Peace and Non-Violence Lenten Series

We have completed a very successful four-week series of presentations for Lent. The presenters were wonderful and knowledgeable, answering many questions, giving us ideas of how to live more just and peaceful lives, and leaving us with more work to do! The messages varied, but communication was the underlying theme. In the first session the leader talked to us about compassion in our relationships with others. We are most productive when we are in loving and thoughtful relationships. In the second session we discussed situations which could be seen as violent or non-violent, as well as ways to protest that are peaceful to some and violent to others.

"If you want peace, then work for justice" is a livable wage saying. The leader for that session gave us background information on the growing gap between the very rich and the very poor, a phenomenon of the last few decades. We learned that 70-80% of working single women in Vermont are working without a livable wage.

The final session was given on Palm Sunday by a panel of six people, including our pastor and two of our mothers, a school counselor, a mom who works with children's sports, and a former high school principal. We discussed problems with and solutions for the stresses our children face as they grow to adulthood. We would like to thank everyone who attended and who participated in and helped out with the sessions.

Rummage Sale Wrap Up

Many thanks to all for your donations of clothing, white elephant items and time to this year's Rummage Sale. It was a profitable and fun event. Over \$2300 was raised in support of missions.

WFC Annual Reports Deadline

If you are the chairperson of a Committee at WFC, then you know it is time to get your report ready for the Annual Meeting. The annual report needs to be ready prior to the Annual Meeting, which will be held on June 10 this year, immediately following worship. It would be helpful if you could type your report in Times New Roman 12 point font. Please e-mail reports to the church office no later than May 15. If you need a copy of an older report, they are available in the church office. Many thanks!

Women of the Church Book Group

The next Women of the Church book group will be held at 5:30 on Wednesday, May 23rd, at Ursula White's home (171 Partridge Hill, Williston). The book selected for our discussion is *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.



LECTIONARY

Each Sunday we join Christians from many faith communities in hearing God's Word as selected from the *Revised Common Lectionary* ~ readings that over a period of 3 years take us through much of the Bible. Following are the Lectionary readings for this month ~ one or more are read aloud during the service.

May 6

Acts 11: 1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 13

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5
John 14:23-29

May 20

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 27

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104: 24-34,35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 (25-27)

THE TRUSTEE'S CORNER

WE ARE READY TO GO!

We are happy to report to you that we are ready to go with the installation of the sprinkler system! Here is a run-down on what we have accomplished:

- Stan Trawczynski drew up a complete set of engineering plans for the project and then waived his entire fee as a contribution to the Church. Many thanks to Stan for his generosity.
- The low bidder on the installation of the sprinklers was North Country Fire Protection, Inc. They are going to try to start the project in May and finish in about six weeks. This will give us fire protection from the steeple to the basement.
- The firm of O'Leary-Burke offered to draw up the plans covering the connection to the City water mains, for a very modest fee. Ken Stone is their former partner and he has offered to help us whenever needed. Our thanks to Ken!
- We will be soliciting bids from two excavating companies to do the street digging.
- We have an electrician lined up to connect the sprinkler wiring to the Church fire alarm panel and that will basically be the last step.

How do we pay for all of this? Well, in three ways. We have some money set aside for the project; the Official Board has authorized a bank loan; and lastly, we are counting on the generosity of the congregation to help us out. We will keep you posted as we move along.

DO YOU KNOW WHY WE DID THIS?

We found out that between 2000 and 2004 there were 1810 structural fires on religious property, 11% of them due to faulty heating or old wiring! (These are official figure from a National Fire Fighting Association.) We sure don't want to be a statistic.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THIS?

Did you know that once we install the sprinklers, we will be permitted to finish the second floor of the Fellowship Hall? This will not only give us needed extra space but also generate revenue for the Church as a rental area!

Since Bob Shepard will be leaving in June, John Willis has agreed to oversee this project. As a Civil Engineer, we will welcome his expertise!

Beginning in May, Tom Johnson will be your new Trustee's Corner reporter and Trustee's Secretary.

The NAMI Walk for the Mind

Will be held Saturday May 19th at 11 AM the Capitol grounds in Montpelier. Bernie Sanders will be the keynote speaker. It has been an interesting experience working as a member of the Walk committee. I want to thank all of you from the Williston Federated Church for your support both personally and financially. It is more than just a "Walk." It has been a journey for me personally and spiritually to challenge myself as a volunteer as well as to speak out for those who suffer from mental illness. Through individuals and the missions committee of the Church, I have received over \$500 in donations! It is wonderful to have the Church as base of support to encourage people to reach out to help others. People with mental illness are among the most vulnerable of our citizens. NAMI provides advocacy, referral and support to individuals and families. If you are interested in walking or learning more about the Walk, please call me at 878-9632.

33rd Annual Terry Carpenter Junior Choir Festival

Please come join us for the 33rd Annual Terry Carpenter Junior Choir Festival to be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 20th, at 6:00 pm. Nearly seventy children will be participating from the Charlotte Congregational Church, Essex Junction Congregational Church, Grace Methodist Church, Norwich Congregational Church, Richmond Congregational Church, West Lebanon Congregational Church and, of course, the wonderful kids from Williston Federated Church.

Land Mine Detection Dogs

Good Luck to Jennifer Mignano and Maria Mignano and their Girl Scout Troop in their commitment to raise \$20,000 to fund a land mine detecting dog to go to Bosnia. These dogs are trained through a program of the Washington based Marshall Legacy Institute. Want to Help? Have an idea for a fundraiser? Call Jennifer Mignano at 878-9577.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 10-12 Senior Exercise Peace Vigil 5:15pm 7:00 pm Membership 7:30 pm Trustees</p>	<p>2 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>3 7:30 am Rotary 9 am Caring Circle 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 6,7, 8:1</p>	<p>4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9:30 am Worship 11-1 Youth Ministry COTS Walk Consecration Sunday 7-9 All Youth</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>	<p>9 7:30 pm AA Finance at 7:00 pm</p>	<p>10 Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>	<p>11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:30 am Worship New Members Mother's Day Blanket Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Dismas Meal 7:00 pm Official Board ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE</p>	<p>16 7:30 pm AA Steeple Deadline 7 pm Education</p>	<p>17 5:30 pm Pastor/ Staff Relations Choir 6,7, 8:15</p>	<p>18 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9:30 am Worship Children & Youth Sunday 6:00 pm Jr. Choir Festival</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10-12 Senior Exercise 6:30 pm Youth Leaders</p>	<p>23 7:30 pm AA 5:30 pm Women's Book Group</p>	<p>24 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise Choir 7, 8:15</p>	<p>25 6:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>26 Sr. High Youth Gathering</p>
<p>27 9:30 am Worship No Youth time</p>	<p>28 Memorial Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>29 10-12 Senior Exercise 7:00 pm Missions</p>	<p>30 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>31 7:30 am Rotary 10-12 Senior Exercise</p>		

**The Steeple
Williston Federated Church**

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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve

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Thanks

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Audio Worship Tapes Available

Audio tapes of our worship service are available. Please contact the church office or Nancy Stone, tape ministry coordinator, if you would like a cassette for you or someone you know. (We regret that we are not able to provide the service in CD format at this time.)

Transportation Ministry Is Rolling

We're looking for volunteers to drive church members and friends to worship services, church events, or medical appointments, or to help with errands such as grocery runs. If you'd like to volunteer, or if you or someone you know needs transportation, please speak with Sarah Hibbeler (872-0827) or Barb Powell (878-5347). Thanks!

